

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A propagated signal, comprising:
  - 2 an element of data contained within a time period of said
  - 3 propagated signal, said time period divided into a group of time
  - 4 slots; and
  - 5 multiple pulses distributed in a predetermined manner among
  - 6 said time slots by pulse group keying to encode said data.
2. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said data is ascertainable by mapping.
3. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said time slots in said group are adjacent.
4. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said time slots in said group are not adjacent.
5. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said time slots have differing characteristics.
6. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said group encodes data that is more than fifteen bits long.

7. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 element of data is selected from the group consisting of:

3 a header;

4 an error detection message;

5 a synchronization element; and

6 a data message.

8. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 1 further  
2 comprising a plurality of said time periods.

9. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 8 wherein said  
2 groups have differing numbers of multiple pulses.

10. The propagated signal as recited in Claim 8 wherein said  
2 number of time slots vary in said time periods.

11. A method of propagating a signal, comprising:

forming an element of data within a time period of said  
signal, said time period divided into a group of time slots; and  
distributing multiple pulses in a predetermined manner among  
said time slots by pulse group keying to encode said data.

12. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said data is  
ascertainable by mapping.

13. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said time slots  
in said group are adjacent.

14. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said time slots  
in said group are not adjacent.

15. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said time slots  
have differing characteristics.

16. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said group  
encodes data that is more than fifteen bits long.

17. The method as recited in Claim 11 wherein said element of  
data is selected from the group consisting of  
a header;

4 an error detection message;  
5 a synchronization element; and  
6 a data message.

18. The method as recited in Claim 11 further comprising  
2 designating a plurality of said time periods.

19. The method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said groups  
2 have differing numbers of multiple pulses.

20. The method as recited in Claim 18 wherein said number of  
2 time slots vary in said time periods.